

FLAMES GUT HOTEL; GUESTS FACE DEATH BY FIRE AND SMOKE

Occidental Hotel, at Washington and Illinois Streets, a Mass of Ruins from Short but Destructive Conflagration, This Morning
PEOPLE FLEE HALF-CLOTHED
Panic Seizes Servants, While Women Swooned and Are Carried Out Unconscious--Insurance Is Comparatively Small

Fire between 2 and 3 o'clock this morning almost totally destroyed the Occidental Hotel, and 150 persons narrowly escaped death, when the building, itself a city landmark, suddenly broke into flames.

Before the first alarm had been answered the entire third floor of the building, situated at Washington and Illinois streets, was ablaze and filled with smoke. By the prompt response of the fire department and men who hurried to the scene, all guests of the hotel were awakened and carried from the building before the fire got beyond the control of the firemen.

The hotel building, the property of Henry Schnull, valued at \$100,000, is gutted.

Further than the fire started in the laundry of the hotel on the third floor, its origin is unknown. Employees of the hotel immediately below the laundry were the first to discover the flames. They said that the only way a fire could have started in the laundry was from the stove used there, in which a low fire is almost always burning.

The spread of flames and the outpouring of smoke were so fierce that guests had no time in which to even dress. They were forced to flee from the burning building, scantily attired.

There were many women in the hotel and their cries sounded shrilly above the noises of the firemen battering down doors and dragging people from their beds.

Many women fainted and had to be carried out. Once out, a number, in their excitement, broke away from their rescuers and rushed madly back into the burning hotel, crying that they had left friends and valuables behind. However, it was only a few minutes before all occupants had been awakened and taken from the hotel.

LOSS IS VERY HEAVY.

It was impossible during the confusion attending the conflagration to get an accurate estimate of the losses of the various establishments located on the ground floor of the ruined building. In each case the damage resulted from smoke and water, the fire not reaching this portion of the building. Water poured through all of the floors, and as the flames were extinguished and controlled the damage in the ground floor rooms became greater. Fenger's pharmacy, located in the corner room at Illinois and Washington streets, was damaged by smoke and water, the entire stock being flooded.

At 3:30 o'clock this morning Mr. Edward Fenger said to the Journal, after a hasty examination of his store that his loss would be not less than \$3,000 and probably more. His stock is valued at over \$10,000, and consists largely of medicine, surgical supplies and cigars. Over 6,000 cigars were stored in the basement, which is deep in water, and the loss of these alone would be a heavy one. His drug supply and prescription department also are in the basement. In the main part of the store, the stock was saved, but the loss of the stock by water and smoke, Mr. Fenger carries between \$10,000 and \$15,000 insurance. He has all his stock insured, and his preparations, just laid in, is valueless, as they were stored in the basement.

The Florence and Kibben was in the center of the flood, and the entire stock, valued at \$5,000, was a total loss. Insurance to the amount of \$10,000 was carried by the Florence and Kibben company, next adjoining. The loss was not greatly damaged, the stock, valued at \$10,000, was saved. The loss was not greatly damaged, the stock, valued at \$10,000, was saved. The loss was not greatly damaged, the stock, valued at \$10,000, was saved.

The loss to Henry Schnull, owner of the building, will reach \$50,000. Mr. Schnull could not make a correct estimate this morning. The building is entirely gutted.

ROVER FLEES WITH CRASH.

The fire alarm was turned in at 1:40 o'clock and within three minutes the fire department was upon the scene. Some little time was lost in getting the waterlines set because of the location of the seat of the fire, which was in the rear and on the top floor. The entire fire department, summoned by a "joker" alarm, was soon at the scene. An accident, soon after the firemen had the water playing freely, hindered the fire-fighters. The water tower, which the firemen were using, suddenly swayed and fell with a crash upon the pavement of Illinois street.

By 2 o'clock it was seen that the hotel could not be saved, and the firemen directed their efforts to saving the adjoining buildings. An attempt was made to save some of the property in the hotel rooms, but the fire gained such rapid headway that the time all occupants had been rescued, men ventured on the upper floors in danger of their lives. As the water lifted the shaky walls they crumbled and collapsed.

There were many narrow escapes during the rapid run of the fire.

Men standing in the office of the hotel were suddenly forced to make a dash for their lives, as the rear of the upper floor slowly sank below the weight of a falling wall above. A moment later the two floors crashed upon the tile floor of the office on the lower floor, where hardly a second before ten or fifteen men had been standing.

OWNER DISCUSSES DISASTER.

P. H. McNelis, one of the hotel owners, said: "The fire could not have occurred at a more unfortunate time so far as endangering the lives of the guests was concerned. I am glad that none was left to suffocate or die in the flames. When the fire was discovered I sent servants to give the alarm in the south end of the building," he said, "while I hastened to warn the occupants of rooms in the north end of the building. There are fewer guests in the hotel tonight than usual, and while in the excitement I was unable to account for everybody, I do not believe any lives were lost."



JAPAN:—"The stuff's off, boys."

TWO MORE HEROES WHO SAVED THE BATTLESHIP MISSOURI FROM DISASTER

But for McDade and Welles Magazine "D 25" Would Have Exploded.

REMAINED IN ROOM
And Shut Out Sparks of Fire That Were Falling from the Turret Above.

PENSACOLA, Fla., April 16.—"Every officer and man on the Missouri is a hero, and that, too, under circumstances which would try the bravery of the very best man on earth," said an officer of high rank here today, who is thoroughly familiar with the circumstances of the explosion on and near the turret of the battleship Missouri, and the conduct of the officers and men during the fifteen minutes that the fire raged in the turret and handling room.

The day brought forth many incidents of heroism displayed by officers and men. Two of the men now in the department will receive recognition from the department for valiant service. These two men are Sonner McDade and Welles. While many others of the crew assisted in saving the ship from destruction by explosion of the magazines, the vessel undoubtedly would have gone to the bottom but for the act of these two men.

When the explosion occurred and sparks began dropping from the turret to their magazine, at the time the turret through which powder is passed was open and about four charges of powder on the outside. McDade saw the danger. Knowing the powder on the outside would catch and unless the opening in the magazine was closed, the ship would explode. He reached his arm through the opening and attempted to unfasten the catch to close the opening, but it refused to work. He then placed his body in the opening until Welles could empty a large powder can, and when this was done the can was shoved into the opening, partly closing it. The men then filled all cracks with sawdust, thus preventing any flames from penetrating the magazine.

On deck men stood at their posts like real heroes. The strain was not less terrible when a ship is in battle, but one more discharge for every man expected the ship to go up any moment by the explosion of the magazines. Standing by the side of the turret, McDade and Welles were the last to leave the ship.

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ARTILLERYMAN KILLED AND FOUR BLUE JACKETS WOUNDED DURING RIOT

Shot by Pensacola Policemen, Who Had Been Rushed by the Marines.

FULLY 300 MEN ENGAGED
Hurled Stones, Bottles and Other Missiles at the Law Officers as Latter Fired.

PENSACOLA, Fla., April 16.—In a riot here to-night between police and bluejackets from the warships and a few artillerymen from Ft. Barrancas one enlisted man named Banks, of Seventh Artillery, was instantly killed and four bluejackets from the Iowa and Alabama were wounded, though not seriously.

The riot started over the arrest of a blue-jacket. Three police officers were at the patrol call box when a petty officer from one of the ships blew a whistle signal in use on ships for the men to assemble. Fully 300 gathered and rushed the policemen, separating them. Two of the policemen backed away from the crowd, firing as fast as possible at the advancing bluejackets, who were hurling stones, bottles and other missiles at them. It was during this shooting that the artilleryman was killed.

Reinforcements from the police station arrived at this juncture and partly disbanded the bluejackets.

Later, owing to many threats of the men from the warships to kill the police, Admiral A. S. Barker ordered marine guards from two of the ships ashore, and they quelled the riot and prevented further trouble.

Fire in Texas Oil Field.

BEAUMONT, Tex., April 16.—Fire in the Gulf refinery property at Port Arthur, which raged for many hours, was brought under control today after having inflicted damage amounting to \$125,000. The refinery was not damaged, but three steel tanks and their contents were destroyed.

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DELEGATES NAMED BY ANTI-DURBIN FORCES ARE UNINSTRUCTED

Anderson Township Convention Evades Gubernatorial Question.

SESSION OPENS IN UPROAR
Durbin Men Outnumbered, but Claim They Elected a Full Slate.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

ANDERSON, April 16.—Madison county maintained her reputation as the home of the real article in picturesque politics to-night when the Republican township convention met to select delegates to the state convention at Indianapolis.

So far as numbers and regular procedure went the anti-Durbin faction won handsomely, outnumbering the Durbin men about two and one-half to one, but the Durbin cohorts were extremely present, and after the adjournment announced a slate which they said they had elected.

The convention, which met in the theater at 7:30 p. m., was composed of about 100 Republicans from Anderson township, called for the purpose of selecting delegates to the state convention at Indianapolis and the district convention at Muncie. It was conceded before the convention met that there would be a clash between the Durbin and anti-Durbin wings of the party.

Chairman George Parker called the meeting to order and the reading of the minutes. In the midst of the turmoil, however, Col. W. W. Huffman, custodian of the Statehouse, nominated George Vincent, of Indianapolis, for permanent chairman. Horace C. Stillwell then nominated Judge M. A. Chapman, chairman of the district convention, to quiet the convention for a regular vote, but the question drifted.

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ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL AFIRE AND WOMAN IN PANIC JUMPS TO DOOM

Wildest Frenzy Reigns When, Deprived of Protection, by Similar Danger Elsewhere, Patients Are Trapped in Burning Building
MISS LEAHY THE SOLE VICTIM
Sister Superior Will Probably Die of Exposure--Hundreds Succored by Heroes, Who Toil During Scenes of Terrible Confusion

While the flames were still encompassing the Occidental Hotel, and the entire fire department of the city were on the scene, fire broke out at the St. Vincent Hospital, southeast corner of Delaware and South streets. The alarm was turned in at 2:30 o'clock, but before the fire department could dispatch one part of its force to the scene the hospital was in flames and filled with dense smoke.

Before the fire could be quenched all of the patients were moved from the beds in the face of death while many ran, or were carried, out into the cold night in their thin clothing, and as a result many die. There were 124 patients in the hospital.

—The Dead.—

HARRIET LEAHY, jumped from fifth floor, instantly killed.

—Seriously Injured.—

SISTER SUPERIOR STELLA, shock which followed operation may cause death.

MISS KATE BEACH, may die, rescued from perilous position in hospital tower.

SISTER NORDICA, aged eighty-four, in serious condition from shock.

WILLIAM SCHNEIDER, a patient, suffering from shock.

HENRY NICHOLS, Connersville, in precarious condition from operation yesterday and suffering from shock.

Up to an early hour this morning but one death had occurred. Harriet Leahy jumped from a rear window on the fifth floor to the alley below and was instantly killed. From the excitement and general removal of patients from the beds it is probable several will die.

Terror reigned unrestricted in the hospital among the patients and the sisters. From the upper windows great clouds of smoke poured out over the forms of patients leaning afar out and imploring in heart-rending cries for aid. The light of flames somewhere in the building shown out the windows and lighted up the white-clad forms. From within came a medley of cries and shouts from the sick that was terrible to hear.

SMOKE POURS FROM WINDOWS.

From every window smoke poured out in white clouds, while within every room and hall in the great hospital was filled with the smoke. The fire was in the basement, where it started presumably from the furnace, but it had secured such a start that it was some time before the department could get it under control.

Almost fifteen minutes elapsed before sufficient firemen were on the scene to make progress with the fire. Little attention, however, was given the fire, as all the men turned to getting the sick patients out of the upper floors.

On the top floor, where the smoke seemed to have centered, the firemen were unable to stand the heavy pall. From those windows patients leaning out choking for breath cried piteously for help.

The fire was discovered by Philip Schneider, a brother of William Schneider, who was being operated upon by the hospital physicians at the time of the breaking out of the fire. Schneider was passing along the hall when he smelled smoke and started an investigation. He immediately gave the alarm.

Among those who will probably die from the result of the shock is Sister Superior.

But the woman, frightened into hysterics, did not heed the advice, and with one loud scream threw up her hands and leaped from the window. A second after her fatal jump a dozen people were standing over the prostrate body.

Death was instantaneous, and by the time the first person reached the woman life was extinct. A small gas in the forehead, where the head had struck the brick pavement of the alley was the only mark. The body was lifted tenderly by two firemen and carried into the first floor of the hospital.

BODY UNIDENTIFIED.

For nearly half an hour after Harriet Leahy jumped to her death her body lay in the engine house near the hospital unidentified. The nurses and patients who were taken into the building were not positive in the identification until one of the sisters and a hospital physician, distressed by the news that one woman had lost her life, hastened to the engine house.

The doctor at once recognized the bruised face as that of the woman who had for so many years been connected with the hospital. When the sister recognized the dead body of the victim she was almost overcome, and, bending over the corpse, was sure she detected signs of life, but the doctor pronounced Harriet Leahy dead.

Henry Nichols, whose home is Connersville, was operated upon at the hospital yesterday afternoon by Dr. George J. Cook for appendicitis, and his condition early this morning was very precarious. Dr. Cook said that it was one of the most difficult operations he had ever performed, and when Nichols was taken from the operating room he was very weak. He was in a room on the fourth floor, and the shock and jolting he received in being carried down stairs may result fatally.

Mrs. C. B. Coleman, of Lebanon, was one of the first patients carried out. She was in the hospital when the fire broke out.

MOYER TO BE PRODUCED IN THE SUPREME COURT

Colorado Miners' President to Be Taken from Telluride in Custody of Soldiers.

STATEMENT OF PEABODY

DENVER, Col., April 16.—Attorney General Miller is authority for the statement that Charles H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, will be produced before the Supreme Court next Thursday in accordance with the writ of habeas corpus issued by that body. He will be brought from Telluride in custody of the military authorities by whom he was imprisoned, and their attorneys will have any motion for his release on bail pending a decision on the writ of habeas corpus in his case. Both sides profess to be desirous of obtaining from the Supreme Court a declaration of martial law, imprisonment and deportation without warrant and disregard of writs of the district court, has been done during the last six months in Teller, San Miguel and Las Animas counties.

Adjutant General Bell today said that he had received no official information in regard to the writ of habeas corpus for President Moyer, of the Western Federation of Miners, issued by the State Supreme Court. "The military cannot be interfered with in its operations," he said, "and I will not present Mr. Moyer before the Supreme Court unless I am ordered to do so by the Governor," said General Bell.

SISTERS FAIR TO GET LATE MILLIONAIRE'S ESTATE

Superior Court at San Francisco Orders Final Distribution of Property.

CLAIMS OF NELSONS

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—Superior Judge Cook today ordered the final distribution of the estate of the late Charles L. Fair, which was appraised at \$3,000,000, to the two sisters of the deceased, Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt. The sum of \$125,000 is to be held out for the purpose of paying the claims of the two sisters and other claims amounting to more than \$200,000 already allowed.

After taking testimony to prove that no child had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fair, the judge declared that they had died without issue.

No contest to the distribution of the estate was made. The executor, Herman Oelrichs, presented a final supplementary report, which was accepted and he was discharged from further liabilities. A succession tax was ordered paid and an order was made for the distribution of the money for the State for the succession of collateral inheritance will amount to about \$150,000 with interest at 7 per cent. for eighteen months. During the proceedings Charles S. Neal testified that \$100,000 had been paid to Mrs. Nelson, the mother of Mrs. Fair.

WOMAN WHO ELOPED HAS SENT BACK HER CHILD

Deserted Whiting Man, on Notice, Meets a Train in Chicago and Finds Daughter.

WIFE GOES TO MEXICO

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

HAMMOND, Ind., April 16.—Last November John Marshall, superintendent at the Standard Oil Company in Whiting, made the acquaintance of Mrs. John McHenry, wife of his next door neighbor, and later eloped with her, taking with him Birdie McHenry, the six-year-old daughter of the latter, and leaving behind him a wife, who is local commander of the Lady Macabees and prominent in society. Mr. McHenry put detectives on the track of the runaway couple, but their efforts to find them were fruitless, and the nine days' sensation soon died out.

Yesterday McHenry was amazed by receiving a telegram advising him to meet the incoming Chicago & Alton train in Chicago and there would be a surprise for him. McHenry met the train and found his six-year-old daughter, who had been sent to him ticketed for Chicago. With her had been sent a letter informing McHenry that his wife would not return and that she had grown weary of her daughter.

MEDICOS ORGANIZE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Pulaski County Society Will Support Only Legislative Candidates Who Will Serve Its Ends.

PURPOSE NOT REVEALED

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

WINAMAC, Ind., April 16.—Politicians of the Thirteenth district, and especially those of Pulaski county, are much puzzled by a resolution adopted by the Pulaski County Medical Association at its meeting held here this week. The doctors, who are affiliated with all parties, and chiefly with the two leading parties in about equal proportions, adopted a declaration pledging themselves to vote only for such candidates for State senators and representatives as would pledge themselves, in unequalled terms, to support such measures in the Legislature as might be demanded by the association. Dr. Dougherty, of South Bend, district organizer of the Indiana Medical Society, attended the meeting and explained the ends sought by the legislation in contemplation. No inkling of its purpose was permitted to become public, though it is said that every medical association in the State is or will be committed to the same attitude regarding medical and hygienic legislation.

The county association elected the following officers: William Kelsey, president; John J. Thomas, vice president; William H. Thompson, secretary; H. C. Stephens, A. H. Smith and W. C. Moss, board of censors; George W. Thompson, representative to State Medical Society.

MINE OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH MURDER OF MINERS

State Inspector and Superintendent Snow, of Harwick Mine, to Be Arrested.

VERDICT OF THE JURY

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 16.—The coroner's jury in the investigation into the Harwick mine disaster, in which 175 men lost their lives on Jan. 25 last, returned a verdict late this afternoon holding State Mine Inspector F. M. Cunningham and Superintendent of Mines Milfred Sowden responsible for the explosion. Warrants have been issued for their arrest, charging murder.

The finding of the jury is to the effect that the explosion was caused by blown-out shot, igniting gas and coal dust; that there was insufficiency of ventilation due to the accumulation of ice at the bottom of the shaft; that Mine Foreman Brown and Fire Boss Gordon were negligent and did not comply with the mining laws; that Mine Inspector Cunningham violated the mining laws by allowing longer time to elapse than law requires in making his official inspection; that Superintendent Sowden violated the mining law in not being held for action of a grand jury on a charge of murder and censured the Allegheny Coal Company for not attending to the Harwick mine according to law.

Much Gold Sent to American.

PARIS, April 17.—A Tokio correspondent of the Matin telegraphs that the gold reserve in the Japanese bank is \$26,000,000 and that \$2,500,000 gold was sent to America during March.

Panama Appointments.

PANAMA, April 16.—The following appointments are announced: Ex-Governor Obaldia, to be minister of Panama at Washington.

Senator Pablo Arosemena to be Panama's minister to Europe, residing at Paris.

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